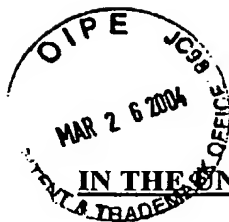


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In re U.S. Patent Application of )  
OKANO et al. )  
Application Number: 10/018,430 ) Art Unit 1723  
Filed: December 20, 2001 ) Examiner:  
For: CENTRIFUGAL SEPARATOR AND SAMPLE ) Drodge, Joseph W.  
PREPARATION DEVICE USING THE SEPARATOR )  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. NITT.0050 )

Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

Sir:

This is in response to the office action dated February 27, 2004, in the above identified application, the period for response is set to expire on May 27, 2004. Please amend the above identified application as follows: